Release of Parliament attack accused by Pakistan

3896. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that the former leader of the outlawed militant Islamic group who was accused by India of the December 13 attack on the Parliament was freed on 1st April, 2002 by Pakistan',

(b) if so, whether India has lodged strong protest to Pakistan over this issue;

(c) if so, Pakistan's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether Pakistan is not willing to handover these terrorist leaders to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Pakistan has been backtracking on its publicly stated commitment not to allow the use of its territory for terrorism anywhere in the world, and to prevent any person from indulging in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. Pakistan's backtracking has included the release of leaders of banned terrorist groups such as the chief of the Lashkar e Tayyaba group that was involved in the December 13 terrorist attack on India's Parliament. The cadres of groups involved in terrorist activities in India have also been released. The Government of Pakistan has also taken no action on the list of 20 fugitives from law handed over to them by India on 31st December 2001.

Government have on numerous occasions reiterated their firm resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country and to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed. Government have also called upon Pakistan to end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India and take action on the list of 20 fugitives from law so that. an appropriate environment is created for the resumption of a meaningful dialogue

process that will move bilateral relations forward. Pakistan, however, continues to pursue its traditionally negative and hostile approaches towards India.

U.S. suggestion to Pakistan to hand over Indian terrorists

3897. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the latest report, U.S. has proposed to Pakistan that Islamabad should turn over 20 terrorists sought by New Delhi or else try and convict them within Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has rejected U.S.'s move in this regard;

(c) whether India has insisted that until and unless these terrorists wanted by India are handed over, no further talks will continue; and

(d) if so, what are the efforts being made by U.S. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) The United States has on a number of occasions stated that it has asked Pakistan to take action against the list of 20 terrorists sought by India. Pakistan has so far taken no steps in this regard.

(c) Government believes that Pakistan must stop sponsoring cross border terrorism against India and take effective action against the list of 20 fugitives in order to create an atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue to take place between the two countries.

(d) The United States has expressed hope for resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan, but has also stated that it docs not seek a mediatory role in this regard.